

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/830,229 First Named Applicant: Masayoshi Umeda
Examiner: Kumar, Kalyanavenka K. Art Unit: 3653 Status of Application: RCE Filed

Tentative Participants:

(1) Kalyanavenka K. Kumar (2) Partick Mackey
(3) Joe Price (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: May 20, 2009 Proposed Time: 1:30 PM EST (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☒ Telephonic (2) ☐ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES ☒ NO

If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

| Issues (Rej., Obj., etc.) | Claims / Fig. #s | Prior Art | Discussed | Agreed | Not Agreed |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) <u>Rej.</u> | <u>All Claims</u> | <u>Stolz</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) <u>"</u> | <u>"</u> | <u>Furukawa</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) <u>"</u> | <u>"</u> | <u>DeVries et al.</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (4) <u>"</u> | <u>"</u> | <u>"</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

☐ Continuation Sheet Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

See attached Claim 1 and illustrated novel features.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____

NOTE: This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

Applicant / Applicant's Representative Signature

Joseph W. Price

Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

25,124

Registration Number, if applicable

Examiner / SPE Signature

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.** SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

IN THE CLAIMS:

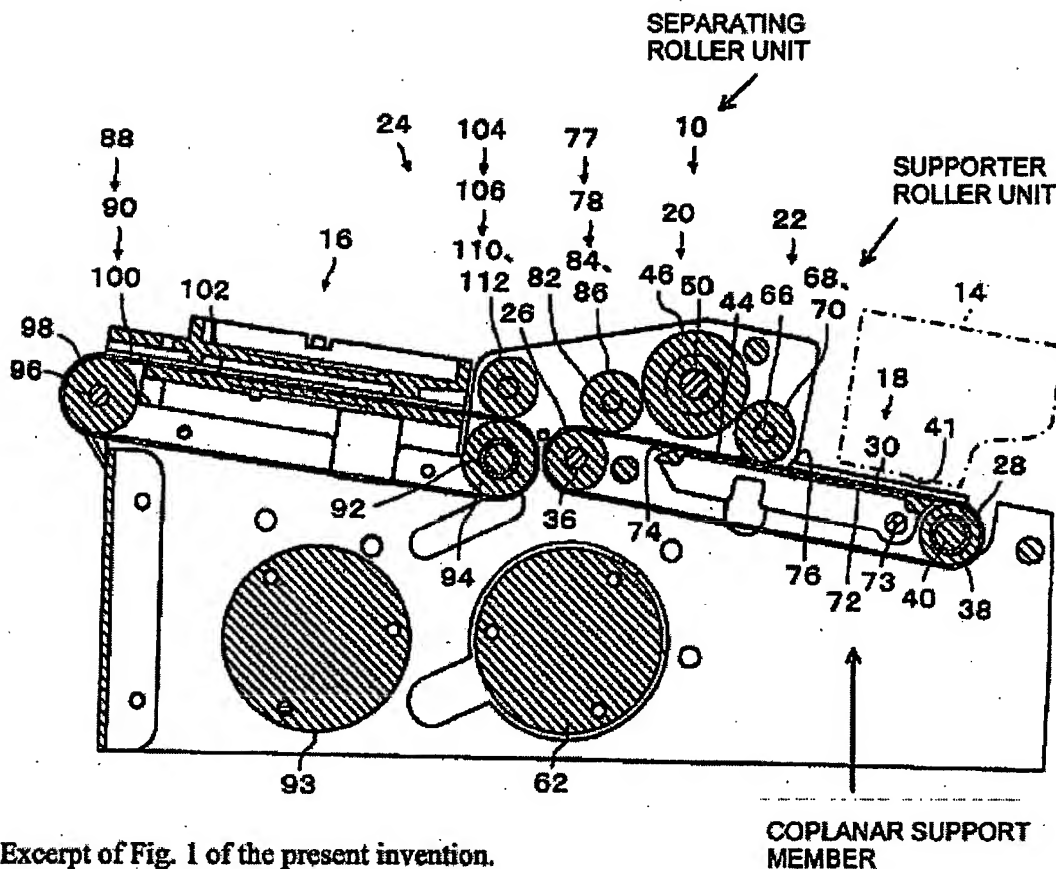
1. (Currently Amended) A coin separating unit comprising:

a coin transporting unit including a flexible first rotatable belt for receiving coins of different size on a support surface of the first rotatable belt that translates the coins linearly for subsequent processing, the support surface having a predetermined flexibility and friction characteristic to engage the coins for linear translation and to enable coin movement transverse to a direction of movement where the coin transporting unit provides forward drive of the coins;

a separating roller unit positioned above the support surface at a distance no greater than twice the thickness of the coins to be separated, the surface of the separating roller unit closest to the support surface moving in a direction opposite to the movement of the support surface; [[and]]

a supporter roller unit mounted on a pivotable lever is operatively located upstream of the separating roller unit, rotates freely around the rotating shaft, contacts the first rotatable belt, moves away from the first rotatable belt when the coin contacts the supporter roller unit, the separating roller unit and the supporter roller unit rotate about parallel axes extending above and across the rotatable belt, the supporter roller unit is only driven by contact with the rotatable belt or passing coin and,[[.]]

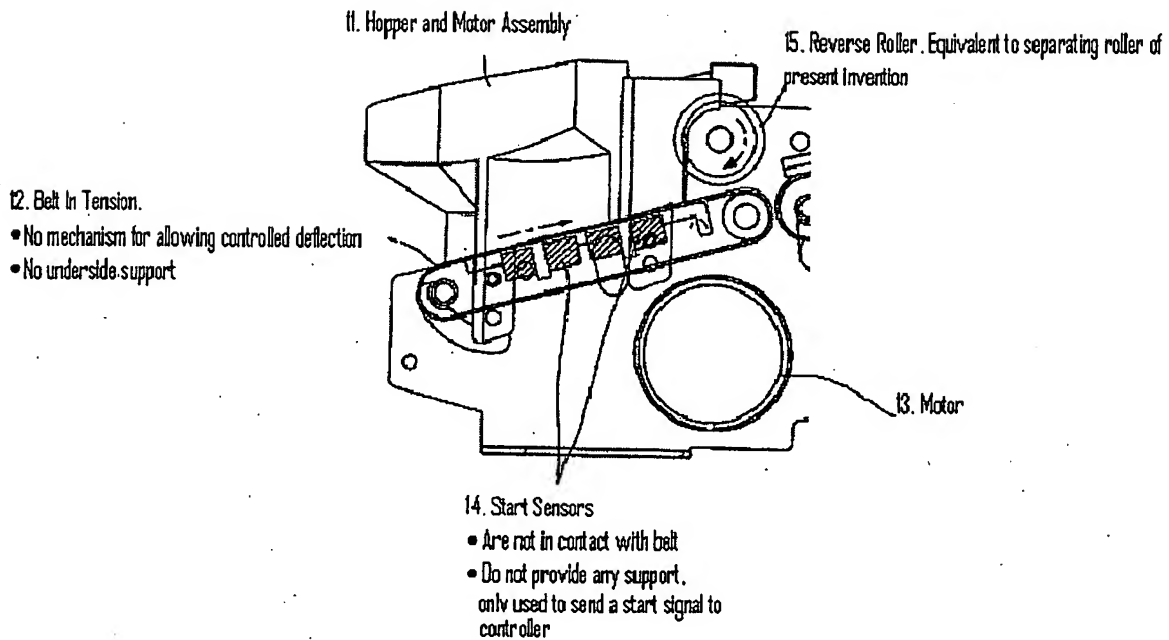
a coplanar support member with trailing and leading edges configured to reduce interference is mounted for relative movement adjacent and underneath the flexible rotatable belt to limit the extend of transverse coin movement beneath the separating roller unit to enable only a single coin to pass beneath the separating roller.



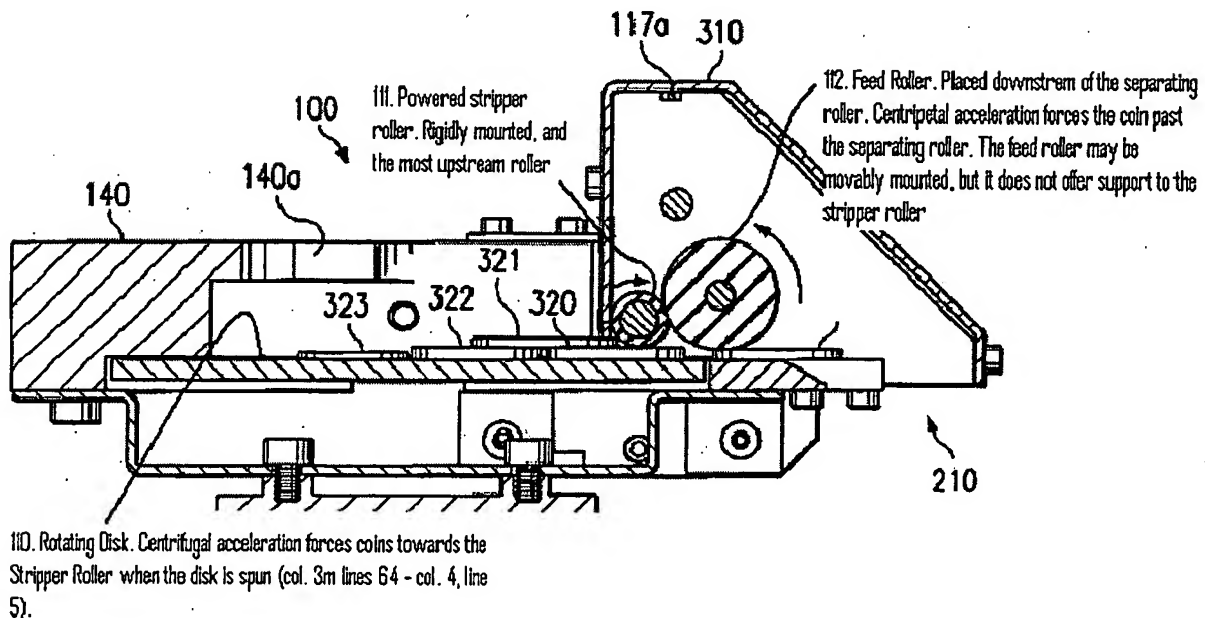
Excerpt of Fig. 1 of the present invention.

As can be seen, the separating unit 10, the support roller unit 70 and the flexible rotatable belt include a pivoting coplanar support member 72 located between the upper and lower portions of the belt of the coin transporting unit 18. The support member 72 can be moved downward to a pre-determined distance to enable a single coin to be released below the separating roller unit. See Paragraphs 0050, 0051.

The original Claim 1 was rejected over the *Furikawa* reference in view of the *Stoltz et al.* reference. The *Furikawa* reference is shown as follows:



Relevant portion of Fig. 4 from the *Stoltz* reference.



Additionally, the Office Action rejected Claim 22 that depended on Claim 1 by further citing the *DeVries et al.* reference as follows.

The adjacent Figures depict the scraper system of Figure 12 installed on a conveyer system.

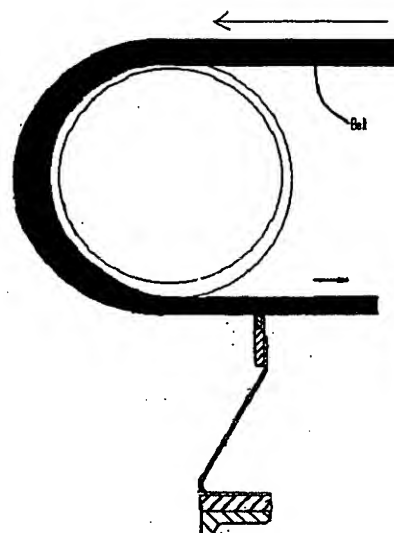
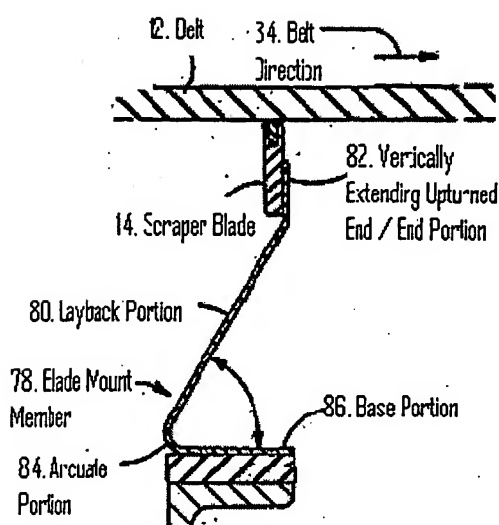
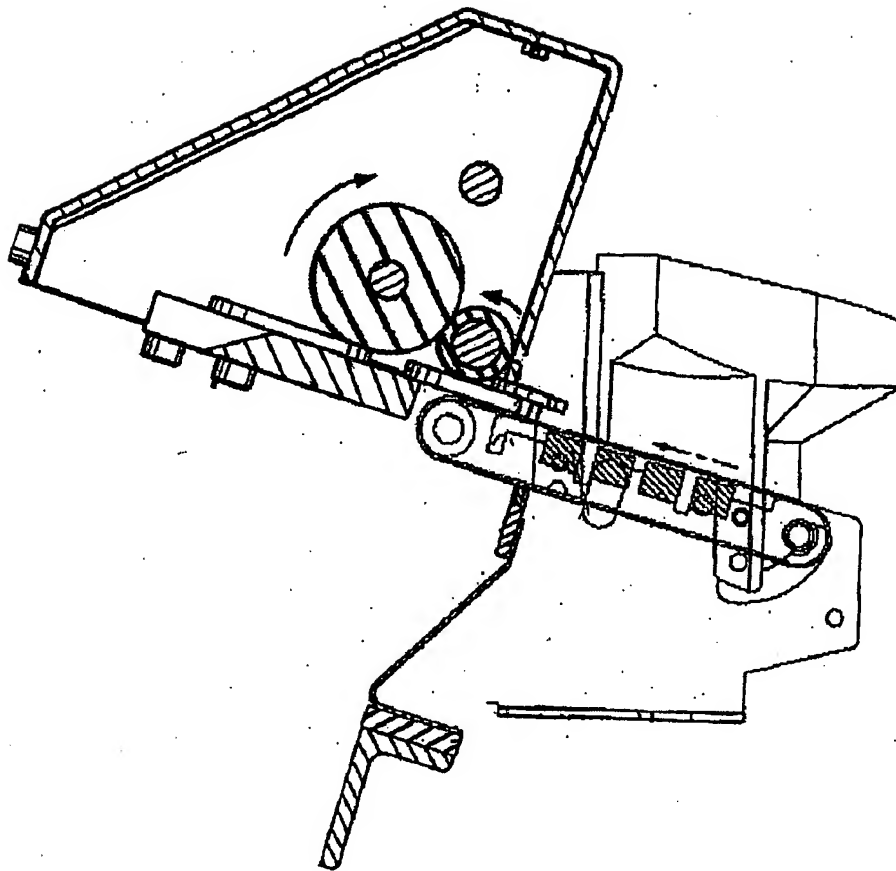


Fig. 12 from the *DeVries et al.* reference.

DeVries as installed on conveyer.

The following Figures show a hypothetical combination of the prior art references and the present invention. A comparison of the two Figures will reveal that the supporter unit including supporter roller members 68 and 70 and coplanar pivoting support member 72 of our invention have no equivalents in the cited prior art.



Hypothetical combination of *Furukawa, Stoltz, and DeVries et al.*

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above comments, it is believed the case is now in condition for allowance and an early notification of the same is requested.